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## AMERICAN ART NEWS

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## CHANGE OF ADDRESS

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**ART AND BOOK SALE CATALOGS**—The American Art News, in connection with its Bureau of Expertising and Valuation, can furnish catalogs of all important art and book sales, with names of buyers and prices, at small charge for time and labor of writing up and cost of catalog when such are de luxe and illustrated.

## APPRAISALS—"EXPERTISING"

The "Art News" is not a dealer in art or literary property but deals with the dealer and to the advantage of both owner and dealer. Our Bureau of "Expertising and Appraisal" has conducted some most important appraisals.

## AS TO "EXPERTISING"

The preliminary advertisements and catalog of a recent sale of old Italian pictures, called "Old Masters," in this city, announced that the said pictures had been "expertised" by a number of well known Italian art authorities, notably Adolph Venturi, Italian Minister of Fine Arts, the Director and Secretary of the Naples Museum, Signori Phillipis and de Rinaldis, Commissioner Rosen of Naples, the Marquis Civallo Maturi of Naples, etc.

The use of the word "expertising," in connection with this sale, and it is to be noted that, notwithstanding the big names given to many of the canvases and the high repute of the Italian authorities announced as having "expertised" them, they sold for very low figures—brings again to the fore the real meaning of the words "Expert" and "Expertising." Some time ago we endeavored to explain to American art lovers, and with some success, that, contrary to the general belief in this country, that an "Expert" is necessarily an infallible person, whose dicta are to be taken as without question—like those of the Pope to the Catholic Church—such is not the case. We further essayed to explain that while anyone who qualifies as an "Expert" should know more from the long and close study he should have given to a subject to attempt to qualify, or to

qualify, as an "Expert" on said subject, he is not even then "infallible." "Homer nodded" and so do "Experts" of the greatest reputation, at times, and "Expert" testimony has been proven unreliable many times.

As to the "expertising" of the Italian authorities of the recently sold pictures which gives us our text, "Expertising" does not necessarily mean endorsement, but may mean just the contrary. If the advertisement and catalog of the recent sale had stated that the eminent Italian authorities, whose names were given, had "endorsed" or authenticated the pictures sold it would have been "a horse of a different color."

The owners of these pictures and the auctioneers who sold them, were, of course, within their rights in the announcement of "expertisation" and we intend no reflection upon them in this, our attempt to explain the difference between "expertisation" and authentication. We hope the former word will not be used again in such a connection, for it might tend, even unintentionally, to a confusion in the art buying public's mind.

## OBITUARY

## Robert Bloodgood

Robert Bloodgood, one of the oldest American landscape painters, died at his studio, 1947 Broadway, last week of pneumonia, aged 75. He belonged to the older school of American artists and essayed to faithfully copy Nature. At one time his work was popular and gave him a good living, but for several years prior to his death he was in straitened circumstances.

## J. Coutts Michie

J. Coutts Michie, a noted painter in England and Scotland, a native of Aberdeen, died there Dec. 26 last. In 1890 he reconstructed the Aberdeen Artists' Society and the following year joined Robert Noble in starting the Society of Scottish Artists. Ten years ago he married Mrs. MacCulloch, widow of the founder of the MacCulloch art collection.

## Anthony Stuffers

Anthony Stuffers, one of the best known of Chicago's younger artists, died at his home there recently. He was born at The Hague in 1894 and came to America with his parents six years ago, and specialized in black and white illustrations. Many of his works have been on exhibition in the Art Institute during the last three years.

## Medigliani

In the death of Medigliani at 35, the French-Italian modern school loses a young artist who was becoming as famous in English speaking countries as in France and in Italy. He began his career in art as a sculptor. There were some good paintings of his at the Salon d'Automne—very free, solid and not outré.

## CINCINNATI

The Museum is now showing an exhibition of sculpture by Mrs. Harry Payne Whitney, mostly portrait studies in bronze of soldiers and sailors and, with the exception of "My Buddy," a large plaster piece they are quite small. "The Aviator" is the most complete, but not the happiest of these studies, the artist seeming at her best in rendering quick, virile impressions. A strong dramatic sense is evident in "On the Top," "Orders," "Chateau Thierry," "At his Post," and "His Last Charge," rugged sketches of soldiers. As a whole the show is diverting and reflects a strong individual outlook.

A special exhibition by a group of Six American Painters, namely: Eliot Clark, Hobart Nichols, Ivan G. Olinsky, Edward H. Potthast, Henry B. Snell and Edward C. Volkert, is on at the Closson Art Galleries here, the same that was held at the Reinhardt Galleries, in N. Y. last November.

There is on exhibition at the Closson Gallery, a Duveneck three-quarter length painting of an Italian woman peasant holding a water jug, done in Italy. It is a picture that should be owned by a museum.

## MEMPHIS

There are several exhibitions of special interest now on display at the art gallery. Eight canvases by Lillian Gent, 26 by Robert Henri, a group of etchings and drawings by Charles H. Vanderhoof.

## ART AND BOOK SALES

## F. Buckley Smith Sale

The collection of early American and English portraits formed by the late Frank Buckley Smith of Worcester, Mass., has recently been removed from that city to N. Y. and will be sold early in April by the American Art Association. Mr. Smith obtained most of his pictures from the old firm of Cottier & Co. and the late T. J. Blakeslee.

## Important Library Sale

The American Art Association announces for Mar. 22-27 next what it considers the most important Literary sale of the season, if not of many seasons—namely that of the Library of Mr. Walter Thomas of South Orange, New Jersey. The Library contains upwards of 2,000 volumes.

## Ralph H. White Picture Sale

The first half, or 80 pictures of the collection formed by the late Ralph H. White of Boston, with a few additions from private owners and estates, all oils, save one watercolor, were sold in the Plaza Ballroom Wednesday eve. last by Mr. Thomas E. Kirby for the American Art Association for a total of \$10,020. The works with the exception of a few modern Americans were by lesser modern French and European painters, were not important and brought only fair prices.

The attendance was small and the bidding slow. The majority of the pictures were purchased by Mr. H. D. Sickles of Chicago, a comparatively new buyer. Other private buyers were Mrs. W. B. Powell, and Messrs. O. Belsheim, F. C. Hutchinson, L. Ross, A. J. Halow, W. R. Hearst, Dr. Ovary and Mrs. F. Steinberg. Few dealers were present or purchased. The Arlington, Holland and Kelly Galleries and Kennedy & Co. were the only dealers who bought.

The top price of \$720, was paid by Mr. W. R. Hearst for De Beaumont's Geese picture "A Difficult Choice." The pictures that brought over \$200 with buyers were "The Enchantress," F. S. Church, \$300 to H. D. Sickles; "Scene in Holland," R. W. Van Boskerck, \$410, to Kennedy & Co.; "Un Grain," \$520 to W. R. Hearst; "Les Deux Gardiens," Rudolph Ernst, \$230 to Dr. Stephen Ovary; "Landscape with Cattle," Rene Menard, \$220 to Mrs. William B. Powell; "Cape Elizabeth," J. A. S. Monks \$260, to A. J. Halow; "Visit of Grand Sheikh to Cairo University," Arthur D. Ferraris, \$350 to O. Bernet Agent; "Preparing for the Ball," Jeanne Bole, \$210 to E. F. Albee, and "The Sisters," La Perrault, \$500, to E. F. Albee.

The story of the second session Thursday evening will be published next week.

## Ann Hall Miniatures Sold

Miniatures and personal belongings of Miss Ann Hall, born in 1792, were sold at the Walpole Galleries Monday eve. Miss Hall was the first woman to be admitted to the National Academy in 1831. She was one of the best miniature painters of her time.

The miniatures sold were of members of Miss Hall's family and they brought about \$800 for the lot, including some unfinished sketches.

With them were sold her directions for painting miniatures in her own handwriting, nine pages, which told with full detail how the work should be done, "using oil paints for the flesh." Ann Hall's certificate of election to the National Academy on vellum, with the seal and signature of the Vice-President, William Dunlap, was one of the numbers of the sale. Many pretty and feminine belongings were also sold, including a lacquer work box, a large, octagonal one, with all the utensils of mother of pearl, which brought \$67.50.

## Rug Sale at Anderson's

Rugs from Chinese Turkestan and from China proper, New York collection, sold at the Anderson Galleries Feb. 20 brought \$12,607 for 150 numbers. R. H. Williams paid \$1,150 for a Ch'ien Lung woolen rug, \$640 for a blue and white peony rug same period; for another in pale salmon \$610. A blue on buff rug went to Mr. Williams for \$425, for a large flower rug he gave \$225, \$4,100 for a large peony rug, and for one with a peony border and peony spray in the center \$310.

A large rug, 21x13 feet, went to A. S. Baliozian & Co. for \$1,300. Mrs. Pierre Cartier paid \$180 for a Samarcand rug, with many borders; \$210 for a rug of the same kind. Another of the peony rugs, figures in blue, yellow, red, white and green, went to Dr. B. A. Baer for \$230.

## Three Days Old Master Sale.

Some 300 so-called "Old Masters," chiefly of the Italian schools and announced as "coming from the Castles of the 'Baron de Molise,' 'Posta Cavelli,' 'Duke of Civetelli' and 'Prince of Caracciolo Arcella,'" and as having been "expertised" by such Italian authorities as Adolph Venturi, Italian Fine Arts Minister, Lionello Venturi of Turin, Prof. D. Phillipis, Secretary, and De Rinaldis, Director, of the Naples Museum, Commissioner Philip Cifariello of Naples, Chev-

alier Squilliacciotti of Rome and others, were sold at the Fifth Ave. Art Galleries Feb. 19, 20 and 21 last for a total of \$14,490.

That Metropolitan art lovers do not enthrall over the class of pictures offered, many of them "attributed," and many others labelled as "unknown" and which can be picked up in old bystreets in the Italian cities, although there were a few attractive old canvases of real merit, and a few other too large ones—notably a striking Salvator Rosa landscape—was proven, not only by the low prices brought—some of the offerings going for \$5 and less, but by the low total. Still with the present low exchange of the lira, 18 and a fraction to the dollar, the owners of the pictures and the foreign promoters of the sale, must have cleared up, approximately, deducting commissions and expenses of say 25%, some 195,750 lira.

## Old New York Views Sale.

Two old views of New York City, one from Brooklyn and one from Weehawken, from the George L. Goodman collection, brought the top prices, \$390, at the American Art Galleries Tuesday eve. last from M. Knoedler & Co. These were the rare Wall-Hill views, engraved in 1828. The same firm also secured the George Washington engraving by Savage for \$290, and a set of naval drawings by Thomas Birch went to Max Williams for \$240. The total for the session was \$5,575.50.

## Whistler Etchings Sale.

A brilliant impression of Whistler's "Little Venice" brought the highest price at the sale of etchings from a London collection with other prints and original drawings at the Anderson Galleries Feb. 19, going to Max Williams for \$1,250. An original drawing by Whistler, a charcoal sketch for "Riva No. 2," on brown paper, brought \$1,225.

A Whistler lithograph, signed "Drury Lane Rags," went to Mr. Williams for \$140; "Tattooing," signed artist's proof etching, went to C. W. Kraushaar for \$200, and a fine impression of "Dordrecht," signed artist's proof, second state, to J. F. McCarthy for \$650; "Miss Emma Rassmussen," by Anders Zorn, signed artist's proof, only state, brilliant impression, went to Max Williams for \$675; Mrs. M. Schaeffer paid \$345 for the same artist's "Rodin" and \$300 for Zorn's "Pa Hemso." The sales total was \$11,081.

## Bischoff Porcelain Sale.

A bronze Han sacrificial wine vessel, a standing ox, brought the top price, \$300 at the American Art Association at the first session of the Bischoff collection sale, Tuesday aft. last. The same buyers also gave \$220 for No. 183, a Han bronze bottle.

Mr. W. R. Hearst gave \$120 for a pair of Ming gilt bronze statuettes; Dr. Lemmi paid \$220 for a pair of imperial incense burners; H. D. Case bought a bronze statuette of a Lohan for \$130; Dr. R. Riefstahl paid \$105 for a Han incense burner, and W. W. Seaman, agent, gave \$130 for a Sung wine vessel. The total for the session was \$5,187.50.

The total of the second session, Wed. aft. was \$16,416, a total for the two sessions of \$21,603. The top price, \$3,400, was paid by Mr. Parish-Watson for a Sung purple blue glaze vase. Mr. Watson also paid \$1,500 for a pair of large Fu lions, \$525 for a Ming gallipot and \$875 for a Chun-yao dish and \$350 for a Clair-de-lune jar. Mr. W. R. Hearst was a large buyer, and paid \$370 for a Ming group of figures, \$350 for two statuettes and \$290 for some five dynasties, architectural pieces. A Sung bowl brought \$400 from Otto Bernet as agent. The story of the last session Thursday, with the grand total of the sale, will be given next week.

## Whittier Book Sale.

Books from the library of John Greenleaf Whittier, with Mss. and autographed letters by him and his friends, and other material, were sold Tues. aft. at the Anderson Galleries for \$1,858.25.

George D. Smith paid \$51 for a presentation copy of "Ralph Waldo Emerson" from Oliver Wendell Holmes to Whittier, and \$59 for a long letter by Whittier, written in 1881, regarding his ancestors. A scarce letter by George Borrow went to W. W. Munson for \$60. A letter by Lord Byron was bought by Mr. Smith for \$50. He also paid \$56 for a document signed by Oliver Cromwell.

The total at the second session Wed. aft. was \$2,841.10 which made a grand total for the sale of \$4,699.35. A feature of the sale was the purchase for \$250 by Mr. George D. Smith of the cancelled cheque for \$36,000, received by Theodore Roosevelt as the Nobel Peace Prize, bearing his endorsement to the late Chief Justice Fuller.

Mr. Adolph Lewisohn invited the members of the National Association of Women Painters and Sculptors to view his private collection Thursday last Feb. 19, at his residence, 881 Fifth Ave.